

6/14/78 R

# The American Physical Society

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AR 177B

June 14, 1978

Ambassador Raul Castro  
American Embassy  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
c/o Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ambassador Castro:

The American Physical Society is deeply concerned about the whereabouts and fate of several Argentinian physicists who have disappeared or have been imprisoned since 1976. This concern is a part of the general interest of the Physical Society in the advancement and diffusion of the physical sciences. Conditions for physicists in Argentina during the last two years are such that the performance of scientific research and associated interchange with the American physics community has been seriously affected.

Withinin the past year we have invoked assistance from the State Department and the Organization of American States in clarifying the status and in ascertaining the safety of the following physicists:

1. Federico Alvarez Rojas, Metallurgy Division, National Atomic Energy Commission, CONEA, Buenos Aires, arrested with his wife Hilda Leikis de Alvarez Rojas in October 1976.
2. Roberto Ardito, CONEA, Buenos Aires.
3. Dr. Gabriela Carabelli, Institute of Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics, University of Cordoba, arrested in April 1976 together with three year old daughter.
4. Julia Huarque de Rabat, arrested on June 3, 1976.
5. Federico Ludden, arrested in December 1976.
6. Dr. Antonio Misetich, National Institute of Industrial Technology, Buenos Aires, arrested on March 19, 1976.
7. Professor Eduardo Pasquini, Physics Department, University of Rosario, arrested on June 10, 1976 together with his wife Liliane Misraijchi.

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Box 4963 (2/12)

8. Elena Sevilla, imprisoned since late 1975.

Articles published in the Christian Science Monitor (7-6-1977), New Scientist (7-7-1977) and Science Magazine (12-24-1976) have suggested that many of these physicists are dead. These articles plus the two years which have elapsed since the disappearance and arrest of some of the above physicists have made us extremely concerned.

We now request your help on two of these cases. Dr. Missetich up to now was believed to be dead; however, we received reliable information recently that he is alive and imprisoned in Villa Devoto in Buenos Aires. Accordingly, we ask for your assistance in making the necessary arrangements for an on-site visit by an American official to Villa Devoto, in order to verify that Dr. Missetich is alive. Our interest in him is enhanced by the fact that he worked for a time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology National Magnet Laboratory, and a group of his former colleagues at MIT are particularly active trying to resolve his situation. /

Ms. Elena Sevilla, a young woman physicist currently imprisoned in Villa Devoto, has been offered a graduate student position at Cornell University. Furthermore, we have been informed that your office in Buenos Aires has stated that she will be given a visa to travel to the U.S. At the present time it seems the delay in her release is due to the Argentinian government, which recently denied the request of the Delegation of the National Academy of Sciences to visit Ms. Sevilla when they were in Buenos Aires last April. In this case we ask if you could bring the situation of Ms. Sevilla to the attention of the Argentinian Government and possibly hasten her release.

I personally, and the membership of the American Physical Society, would be most grateful for your doing your utmost to help in these cases.

I would appreciate receiving your reply about these matters.

Sincerely,

Bernard R. Cooper  
Chairman, Committee on International  
Freedom of Scientists,  
The American Physical Society

BRC:bhd

cc: Mr. Terence Todman, Assistant Sec. of State for Interamerican Affairs  
Ms. Patricia Derian, Coordinator for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs  
Dr. N.F. Ramsey, President-APS  
Dr. H.L. Garwin, Chairman-Panel on Public Affairs, APS  
Mr. W.J. Gallagher, POPA-APS  
Dr. M. Shoaf, APS